

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Stanley Blumenfeld, and Mark C. Scarsi, both to be a United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Grace Karaffa Obermann, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years, and Stephen A. Vaden, of Tennessee, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

AMENDING SECTION 442 OF TITLE
18, UNITED STATES CODE, TO EX-
EMPT CERTAIN INTERESTS IN
MUTUAL FUNDS, UNIT INVEST-
MENT TRUSTS, EMPLOYEE BEN-
EFIT PLANS, AND RETIREMENT
PLANS FROM CONFLICT OF IN-
TEREST LIMITATIONS FOR THE
GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OF-
FICE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2851, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2851) to amend section 442 of title 18, United States Code, to exempt certain interests in mutual funds, unit investment trusts, employee benefit plans, and retirement plans from conflict of interest limitations for the Government Publishing Office.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2851) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2851

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 442 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 422. Government Publishing Office

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the terms ‘diversified’, ‘employee benefit plan’, ‘holding’, ‘mutual fund’, and ‘unit investment trust’ have the meanings given those terms under section 2640.102 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto; and

“(2) the term ‘printing-related interest’ means an interest, direct or indirect, in—

“(A) the publication of any newspaper or periodical;

“(B) any printing, binding, engraving, or lithographing of any kind; or

“(C) any contract for furnishing paper or other material connected with the public printing, binding, lithographing, or engraving.

“(b) OFFENSE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Director of the Government Publishing Office shall not, during his or her continuance in office, have any printing-related interest.

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR MUTUAL FUNDS, UNIT INVESTMENT TRUSTS, EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS, AND RETIREMENT PLANS.—It shall not be a violation of paragraph (1) for the Director of the Government Publishing Office to have an interest in a diversified mutual fund, diversified unit investment trust, employee benefit plan, investment fund under the Thrift Savings Plan under subchapter III of chapter 84 of title 5, or pension plan established or maintained by a State government or any political subdivision of a State government for its employees that has 1 or more holdings that are printing-related interests if the fund, trust, or plan does not exhibit a practice of concentrating in printing-related interests.

“(c) PENALTY.—Whoever violates subsection (b)(1) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 23 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 442 and inserting the following:

“442. Government Publishing Office.”.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, November 14; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Menashi nomination, with the postcloture time expiring at 1:45 p.m.; finally, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Wyoming.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA
TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to shine a spot-

light on our strong, healthy, and growing economy. Specifically, my focus is on how this record-setting economy is helping and could continue to help all Americans.

Since Republicans took over and passed tax relief, there has been no end to the boon in jobs in our country. Republicans have put the U.S. worker in the driver's seat. The October jobs report again beat all expectations. U.S. employers added a solid 128,000 jobs last month alone.

Even better, American workers are noting that their wallets are thicker and fatter. Wages are up 3 percent year over year. It is the fastest growth—faster than inflation.

We also continue to see record-low unemployment across the country. At 3.6 percent, the U.S. jobless rate is near a 50-year low. African-American unemployment is at a 50-year low. In fact, 3 years of Republican pro-growth policies have produced more than 6 million new jobs—actually, 6,700,000 new jobs. Today, the United States has nearly 160 million people working. That is another record high. Median household income is the highest in 20 years. No wonder a new poll by Gallup shows Americans are planning to spend more than ever this holiday season because they have the money. They have earned it, and they have kept more of their hard-earned money as a result of tax relief.

The U.S. stock market continues to set new highs, and that is welcome news for people when they look at their pensions, their retirements, and their 401(k)s.

Notably, trade optimism has been a major factor in the stock market's climb to record highs, which brings me to my next point: How do we start the next chapter of the United States in terms of our success story? I believe it is through America-first trade victories.

Without question, the most important trade deal we need to pass right now is USMCA—the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement. In my view, it is vital to continuing our American prosperity. The U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement was signed by all three countries' leaders more than a year ago, so you would think, well, it should be in place. But it takes more than that. Mexico gave its final approval to USMCA in June. Canada is waiting for us—for the House and the Senate—to give the approval as well.

Without a doubt, USMCA is the best trade upgrade in 25 years. It is going to expand market access for a host of U.S. products, and it is going to sharpen U.S. exporters' competitive edge. Above all, USMCA is a big benefit for American workers. It will protect and produce millions of U.S. jobs, and that is critical.

I predict it will pass the Senate with strong bipartisan support. So it has to get here. Yet we have not crossed the finish line. There is a roadblock, and the roadblock is at the other end of